In the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP2003/010510, with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT

In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a method for automatically determining a correction period of time (ΔVLZ_opt) for correcting an actual lead time for delivery of an upstream product (V) which is manufactured with an actual lead time (VLZ_actual) by a delivery unit of a manufacturing network, wherein a quantity of the upstream product (V) to be completed in each case by the delivery unit to cover demand of an end user of the manufacturing network, being determined for multiple points in time and stored in the form of a setpoint delivery curve. The method according to the present invention comprises the steps of, for multiple points in time, determining and storing, in the form of an inventory curve, a quantity of the upstream product (V) completed by the delivery unit but not yet used by a downstream delivery unit, determining the correction period of time (ΔVLZ_opt) by a selection from a quantity of possible periods of time (ΔVLZ), calculating, for each possible period of time, a simulated inventory curve, for each possible period of time using the setpoint delivery curve and the inventory curve, the simulated inventory curve indicating for multiple points in time: a quantity of upstream product (V) that would have been completed by the delivery unit at a particular point in time and not yet used by a downstream delivery unit, if the lead time required by the delivery unit for the upstream product (V) had been altered by the possible period of time in comparison with the actual lead time (VLZ_actual), and selecting as the correction period of time (ΔVLZ_opt) the period of time of the possible periods of time resulting in a simulated inventory curve that is optimal with respect to an optimization criterion (σ) based on the simulated inventory curves. In addition, the present invention provides a device, which can comprises a computer having an internal memory, and a computer program product for automatically determining a correction period of time (ΔVLZ_opt), as determined by the method of the invention.